

Tennessee Department of Education
School Safety Center

Safe Schools Seminars

Tennessee Department of Education
Office of School Safety and Learning Support
Tennessee School Safety Center

What: The Tennessee Department of Education's Office of School Safety and Learning Support will host regional seminars for a limited number of school personnel. These seminars were developed to assist districts in meeting the planning and policy requirements associated with the Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) Act. A description of each seminar is provided below.

Who: One person from each district per seminar; i.e., the same person may or may not attend both the morning and afternoon seminars. It is recommended that whoever is selected have district-level responsibilities in a related area such as policy, discipline, staff development, etc. Registration will be limited to one person per district until one week prior to the training at which time additional registrations may be allowed on a first come/first served basis.

When/Where: Seminars will held in the following cities:

Monday, February 11	Cookeville
Tuesday, February 12	Nashville
Friday, March 7	Jackson
Monday, March 10	Oak Ridge
Tuesday, March 11	Chattanooga

Morning seminars will be held from 8:00 – 11:30 a.m. and focus on the issue of threat assessments. The afternoon seminars be held from 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. and focus on bullying and harassment. Directions to the seminar location will be faxed along with registration confirmation.

IMPORTANT: You must register separately for each seminar.

For additional information **about registration**, please contact Lori Ungurait at (615) 253-6382 or lori.ungurait@tennessee.edu.

For information **about the seminars**, please call Mike Herrmann at (615) 741-3248 or mike.herrmann@state.tn.us.

Guidelines for Responding to Student Threats of Violence

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in a 2000 report on school violence stated: "Although the risk of an actual shooting incident at any one school is very low, once a threat is made, having a fair, rational, and standardized method of evaluating and responding to threats is critically important. It is especially important that a school not deal with threats by simply kicking the problem out the door. Expelling or suspending a student for making a threat must not be a substitute for careful threat assessment and a considered, consistent policy of intervention."

Both the FBI study and a 2002 report published by the U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Department of Education recommended that schools train threat assessment teams to respond to student threats of violence. The University of Virginia Youth Violence Project field tested the federal recommendations in several school districts, and subsequently developed a training curriculum. In 2006 they published a training manual entitled *Guidelines for Responding to Student Threats of Violence*.

Dr. Ken Strong, Supervising Psychologist with Memphis City School's Threat Assessment Team, will discuss the important features of these guidelines and explain how a district or school can easily implement threat screening procedures.

REGISTRATION FORM ***Guidelines for Responding to Student Threats of Violence***

Name: _____ **Title:** _____

School System: _____

Participant's Email: _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

This training is provided to you at no charge by the Tennessee School Safety Center.

Choose one of the following workshops- 8:30am – 12:00pm:

- _____ **Monday, Feb 11, 2008 in Cookeville**
- _____ **Tuesday, Feb 12, 2008 in Nashville**
- _____ **Friday, March 7, 2008 in Jackson**
- _____ **Monday, March 10, 2008 in Oak Ridge**
- _____ **Tuesday, March 11, 2008 in Chattanooga**

To Register:

Complete the information above and fax this form to Lori Ungurait at **615.253.6343** or email to **lori.ungurait@tennessee.edu**. A confirmation and directions will be faxed or emailed back.

For Title VI and Title IX compliance, we ask for voluntary disclosure of the following information:

Please Circle One-

Gender: Male Female

Race: African-American Asian American Indian Caucasian Hispanic Other: _____

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Bullying and Harassment: Beyond Policy to Practice

Despite policy mandates and extensive public interest, bullying and harassment continue to be an area of concern for many schools. Research in this area clearly indicates the need to support policy changes with ongoing practical responses to bullying behavior. Because the problem is so widespread and in many cases tacitly accepted, norms must be changed within the school and community.

The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program is internationally recognized as a model program with a strong research base. For the past two years, a limited number of Tennessee schools have adopted the Olweus model and begun implementation. Rodger Dinwiddie is president of the Center for Youth Issues in Nashville and one of a handful of Olweus Master Trainers in the United States.

Mr. Dinwiddie will provide an overview of the bullying issue and present strategies for districts or schools to consider as they move beyond policy to effective practice in addressing this challenging problem.

REGISTRATION FORM

Bullying and Harassment: Beyond Policy to Practice

Name: _____ **Title:** _____

School System: _____

Participant's Email: _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

This training is provided to you at no charge by the Tennessee School Safety Center.

Choose one of the following workshops- 1:30pm – 3:30pm:

- _____ **Monday, Feb 11, 2008 in Cookeville**
- _____ **Tuesday, Feb 12, 2008 in Nashville**
- _____ **Friday, March 7, 2008 in Jackson**
- _____ **Monday, March 10, 2008 in Oak Ridge**
- _____ **Tuesday, March 11, 2008 in Chattanooga**

To Register:

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